

True Copy

Of Part of that

PAPER,

WHICH

Mr. *Ashton* left in a Friend's Hands: Together with
the LETTER in which he sent it enclosed.

15th April. 1691. *Ashton's Governm^t.*

[The Paper begins with the Speech already published, immediately after which
he adds.]

Thus much is contained in the Paper that I design to leave with the
Sheriff.

But being suddenly to give up my Accounts to the Searcher of all Hearts,
I think it a duty incumbent upon me to impart some things farther, which
neither the Interest nor Iniquity of these Times will, I conclude, willingly
bear the publication of, and therefore not fit to be inserted in the Sheriff's
Paper.

Some time after the Prince of *Orange's* Arrival here, when it was expected,
that, pursuant to his own Declaration, and the King's Letter to the Conven-
tion, an exact Search and Enquiry would have been made into the Birth of
the Prince of *Wales*, there was a Scheme drawn up of that whole Matter, and
of the Proofs that were then (and are still) ready to be produced, to prove
his Royal Highness's Legitimacy; but no publick Examination being ever
had, and the Violence of the Times, as well as Interest of the present Govern-
ment, not permitting any private Person to move in it, those Papers have
ever since lain by: But it being now thought advisable by some, to have
them printed and published; and (as at first they were designed) address'd,
at their next Meeting, to the Lords and Commons, entreating them to en-
quire into that weighty Affair, and to call forth, examine, and protect (for
who else dares to appear) the many Witnesses to the several Particulars there-
in offer'd to be legally proved, &c.

I was order'd to carry those Papers to the King my Master, for his view,
that his Leave and Approbation might go along with the Desires of his good
Subjects here; and they being taken with me, with some other Papers of Ac-
counts, &c. in a small Trunk, amongst my Linen, and other private things
of my own, and not in the Packet, (my *Ld. Preston* being altogether a stran-
ger to the whole proceeding,) by this means fell into the hands of our pre-
sent Governours; who, though they wisely waved the producing them as
Evidence at my Tryal, yet have I just Reason to believe my greatest Crimes
were contained in them; and I do therefore conclude and hope, that I onely
am design'd to be sacrific'd, who onely knew of them: Nor am I surpris'd
at it, since nothing, I think, can be more prejudicial to some Persons present
Interest, than the exposing of those Papers to the Publick, which will set that
pretended Mystery of Darkness in so clear a Light, that all Mankind must be
convinced of his Highness's being born of the Queen, and of their Wicked-
ness, who have maliciously and designedly assert'd that innocent Prince to
be an Impostor. The Love and Compassion that I have for my native Coun-
treys, as well as Charity, obliges me humbly to implore Almighty God to be
mercifull to it, and not to charge this great Sin to the publick Account, and
time

that we may not farther ^{see} his Justice by our wilfully continuing in Error and Mistake, I beseech him to put it into the Hearts of the Lords, &c. at their next Meeting, to examine into that whole Matter, and (if before that time this be published) to enquire after, call for, and, if possible, retrieve those Papers that were taken with me; whereby the Obstinate will most certainly be convinced, the Ignorant informed, the Doubtfull confirmed, the Eyes of all opened, and a sacred most important Truth made apparent to the whole World.

What I have next to impart is not less material, &c.
[But I do not think it a proper time to publish what follows next; and therefore, according to the Will and Desire of my dead Friend, expressed in his following Letter, 'tis reserved to a fitter Opportunity; and shall now only insert what he wrote to me relating to Mr. Ellyot.]

But I must not end this Paper till I have done one Act more of Justice, as well as Charity, in behalf of my Fellow-Sufferer, Mr. *Elliot*, who was, as I do most sincerely believe, altogether ignorant, not onely of the contents of the Papers, but even of the Papers themselves, and no way concerned but as a Passenger; and yet if Providence had not prevented our being all tried together, as was intended, that innocent Gentleman had most certainly shared in our Fates; for the Proofs, even at my Tryal, lay stronger against him than my self; for Captain *Billop* did then upon Oath, (unnecessarily, I think,) declare him to be much more concerned and importunate than I was, to have the Pacquet thrown over Board; and yet singly from my being concerned, and speaking to him on that Subject, a presumptive Evidence (sufficient, as it proved, with that Jury to find me guilty upon,) was drawn, that I knew what was contained therein. But I do most heartily forgive them, and pray to God, that this poor Gentleman, by gaining of Time, may escape better, and that his innocent Blood may not be shed: And I hope these words of a dying Man (though no legal Proof) may have some weight with an impartial, conscientious Jury, (if such a Jury he can get,) whenever he is brought to his Trial.

John Ashton.

[This Paper, &c. came enclosed to me from Mr. Ashton, before his Execution, in the following Letter.]

Sir,

K Nowing your Friendship and Fidelity to your, and your onely, as unto safe and secure (though distant) Hands, I recommend the enclosed Papers, what chiefly relates to my self, being the first part, I design to leave with the Sheriff; nor shall I be anxious about his Disposal of it: But the following Paragraphs, that concern the Prince of Wales, and — I beg you to preserve as Jewels, and publish them, either part, or all, (chiefly that about the Prince,) whenever time or occasion seems to permit or require. And as to the fitness of either, you may be pleased to consult A. B.'s Advice; I doubt not but sooner or later they will all be useful: And that you may the more value them, I do most solemnly protest, I have been as careful in what I have asserted for Truth, as if I were now at God's dreadful Tribunal, where I expect suddenly to appear, and by his Mercy hope to hear that ravishing Sound, *Come, ye blessed, &c.*

What relates to Mr. *Elliot*, though I design to declare as much to some, who at his Trial may give it in Evidence, yet I thought it just to leave a Record of his Innocency under my Hand.

I have nothing to add, but to request your Prayers, That God, of his infinite Mercy, would support and strengthen me in my last Moments, and take to himself,

Sir, Yours,

Newgate, January 27. 1696.

John Ashton.